

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEATS ATHENS 1298 ACTION DEPT FEB 14TH

QUOTE

S E C R E T ATHENS 1298

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR TEXT)

DEPT PASS DEFENSE AND OTHER ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE

INCL DEPT ASST SECY DEF BERGOLD IN LISBON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR

SUBJECT: US-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS - MILITARY FACILITIES

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONCLUDING SESSION OF CURRENT ROUND OF
TALKS BROUGHT FURTHER ELUCIDATION OF GREEK VIEWS, AND
CONTINUING TOUGH LINE CALLING FOR CLOSING OF US
FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON (ATHENAI) AIRPORT. ON HELLENIKON,
GREEK SPOKESMAN SAID HIS SIDE HAD STUDIED US REMARKS
MADE AT PRECEDING SESSION (ATHENS 1196), AND STATED
HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INSIST THAT, IN KEEPING
WITH GREEK VIEW, US FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON WOULD HAVE
TO BE CLOSED. GREEK SIDE ALSO ELABORATED ON THEIR VIEW
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OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES I.E., INTELLIGENCE-
RELATED FACILITIES WHICH GREEKS HAVE AVOIDED SPECIFYING
AS SUCH IN CURRENT DISCUSSIONS SAYING THAT, IN GENERAL,
GREECE WOULD SEEK (A) GREEK COMMANDER FOR SUCH FACILITIES

(B) SOME PROVISION FOR APPROVAL OF US EQUIPMENT BY GREEK ARMED FORCES; (C) COMMON USE OF SOME EQUIPMENT FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES; (D) MORE ACCURATE COUNT OF US PERSONNEL AT FACILITIES; AND (E) PROVISION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES OF SUCH FACILITIES IN CASE OF CONFLICT IN WHICH GREECE BUT NOT US WAS INVOLVED (GREEK-TURKISH HOSTILITIES WERE THE OBVIOUS BUT UNSTATED CASE IN POINT). GREEK SIDE ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN BACKGROUND ON FUNCTIONING OF JOINT US-HOST COUNTRY INSTALLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO COMMAND, FLAG, AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. GREEK SIDE RAISED AGAIN THE VARIBOBI COMMUNICATIONS STATION, ASKING FOR TEXT OF GOVERNING AGREEMENT. IN CONCLUDING, GREEK SIDE SAID THAT AT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS THEY WOULD EXPECT TO TABLE SOME PRELIMINARY TEXTS ON MAJOR SUBJECTS OF INTERESTS.

US (STEARNS) RESPONDED THAT US ACTIVITIES AT HELLENIKON WERE IMPORTANT TO US AND, BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, TO GREECE, AND THAT FUTURE TALKS COULD ADDRESS POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS IN US PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON WHICH MIGHT SATISFY GREEK INTERESTS BUT AVOID ABOLITION OF THE OVERALL FACILITY. RESPONDING GENERALLY TO GREEK REMARKS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HE SAID THAT ALL US ACTIVITIES IN GREECE WERE CARRIED OUT UNDER GREEK HOSPITALITY, AND THAT OUR CONSIDERATION OF GREEK VIEWS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WOULD BE GUIDED BY THIS FACT. HE NOTED THAT GREEK VIEW ON STATUS OF SUCH FACILITIES IN TIMES OF CONFLICT RAISED LEGAL ISSUES WHICH NEEDED TO BE STUDIED AND WHICH HE COULD NOT ADDRESS ON THE SPOT. WITH REGARD TO GREEK REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FUNCTIONING OF JOINT FACILITIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES, STEARNS SAID THE US WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE PERTINENT INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH GREEK PATTERN THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY EMERGE FROM PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT WELL PROVE TO BE IN A CATEGORY OF ITS OWN. STEARNS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT US AGREED WITH PRINCIPLE OF WORKING TO DEVELOP ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD MAKE FACILITIES JOINT RATHER THAN UNILATERAL.

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END SUMMARY.

1. THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION RESUMED AT 10AM ON 14 FEB. AMB CALOGERAS STATED THAT THERE WERE TWO ITEMS THAT HE WISHED TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN SIDE. REFERRING TO THE PROBLEM OF THE HELLENIKON AIR BASE AND MIN STEARNS SUGGESTIONS ON WEDNESDAY CONCERNING THE USE OF THE AIR BASE FOR BOTH THE GREEK AND US FORCES, HE INDICATED THE GREEK SIDE'S AWARENESS OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON THERE WHICH MIGHT BE VALUABLE TO GREECE, BUT NEVERTHELESS HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INSIST THAT THE FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON BE CLOSED. STEARNS RESPONDED THAT THE US SIDE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE

GREEKS CONSIDERED HELLENIKON A STICKY POINT, BUT BECAUSE THE HELLENIKON AIR BASE DID INCORPORATE FACILITIES OF ENORMOUS VALUE TO THE US, WHICH THE US SIDE BELIEVED ALSO WERE BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY VALUABLE TO GREECE AND FURTHER BECAUSE THE RELOCATION OF THESE FACILITIES PRESENTED MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, THE US SIDE WOULD IN THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS PRESENT SOME ALTERNATIVES TO ELIMINATION. HE NOTED THAT HIS REMARKS ON FEB 12 WERE ONLY PRELIMINARY AND THAT THE WASHINGTON-BASED MEMBERS OF THE EAM WOULD BE EXAMINING ALTERNATIVES. HE REFERRED AGAIN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCORPORATING US FACILITIES INTO THE ADJACENT GREEK AIR BASE, WHICH MIGHT BE THE MOST SATISFACTORY OUTCOME ALTHOUGH THE US WOULD LIKE TO RETAIN SOME OF ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES. HE RESERVED FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR A LATER, MORE COMPLETE US REACTION.

2. CALOGERAS THEN ADDRESSED THE STATUS OF THOSE US FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT REMAIN IN GREECE, STATING THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF JOINT GREEK-AMERICAN OPERATIONS. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXAMPLES OF JOINT US-HOST COUNTRY FACILITIES ELSEWHERE, AND STATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE US SIDE COULD GIVE THEM AT LEAST A GENERAL OUTLINE OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS A MODEL FOR GREECE. STEARNS REPLIED THAT CALOGERAS COMMENTS LED DIRECTLY INTO THE ISSUE OF HOW ALL FACILITIES THE US ENJOYED MIGHT
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BE IDENTIFIED AS GREEK INSTALLATIONS. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DIFFERING ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AND HE AGREED THAT THE US SIDE WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ARRANGEMENTS THE US HAD ELSEWHERE BUT STATED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE NEW GREEK MODEL AND OUR EFFORTS HERE TOGETHER MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE BEST EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS. HE ADDED THAT THE US SIDE COULD PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THE TEXTS THEMSELVES, BECAUSE OF THEIR CLASSIFICATION BETWEEN TWO ALLIES, MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PROVISION TO THIRD PARTIES.

3. CALOGERAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOUDHA PRESENTED A DIFFERENT PROBLEM FROM OTHER FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT REMAIN AND TURNED TO THE EXTENSIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES THAT THE US HAD IN GREECE, NOTING THAT IN SOME CASES THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS ON THESE FACILITIES AND STATING THAT A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED IN WHICH THESE WOULD BECOME JOINT GREEK-US FACILITIES SERVING THE MUTUAL AND COMMON DEFENSE NEEDS. HE COMMENTED THAT LATER HE WOULD BE GIVING SOME MORE GENERAL IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. HE STATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GREEK COMMANDING OFFICER AT EACH BASE, WITH GREEK SECURITY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN A JOINT OPERATION.

HE STATED THAT THE MODALITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED LATER SINCE AT THIS POINT IT WAS IMPORTANT JUST TO ESTABLISH THE CONCEPT. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON THESE INSTALLATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED IN GENERAL TERMS BY THE GREEK ARMED FORCES, IN CONSONANCE WITH THE US ARMED FORCES. HE BELIEVED THE TWO SIDES SHOULD WORK OUT THE PRACTICAL DETAILS OF COMMON USE OF EQUIPMENT FOR MILITARY DEFENSE PURPOSES AND THAT THIS WOULD BE A MODEL FOR FUTURE RELATIONS IN THIS FIELD. HE INDICATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD WISH TO KNOW THE NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO US FACILITIES, A MATTER OVER WHICH THE GOG NOW HAD NO CONTROL AND INDEED THAT NO ONE ON THE GREEK SIDE EVEN KNEW AT THIS TIME HOW MANY PEOPLE THE US HAD IN GREECE. HE DECLARED THAT THE GOG NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THESE BASES AND HOW MANY AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE ON GREEK SOIL.

4. STARNES, TAKING NOTE OF CALOGERAS COMMENTS ON SOUDHA
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AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. HE STATED THAT PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TWO TEAMS WAS TO IDENTIFY AND CLARIFY THE APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENTS, MANY OF WHICH WENT BACK FOR SOME TIME AND OVERLAPPED AND DUPLICATED THEMSELVES. HE STATED THE US HOPED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD RESULT IN AGREEMENTS THAT WOULD BE CLEAR, NOT ONLY NOW BUT FOR FUTURE USERS, AND IN US-GREEK MUTUAL INTERESTS. STARNES NOTED THAT THE US DELEGATION WAS KEENLY AWARE OF THE GREEK DESIRE TO ASSUME GREATER CONTROL OVER US FACILITIES, AND ADDED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THE US DID IN GREECE THAT AT SOME POINT HAD NOT RECEIVED GREEK GOVERNMENT CONSENT. THE US REACTION TO THE GREEK PROPOSAL WOULD BE GUIDED BY THAT UNDERSTANDING, TO INCLUDE KEEPING THE GREEKS FULLY INFORMED OF THE NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL AND TO GIVE THEM A BETTER IDEA OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FACILITIES. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT NO US FACILITY HAD BEEN CREATED UNILATERALLY AND THAT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER THEY HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY ONE SET OR ANOTHER OF MINISTERS OR ARMED FORCES OFFICERS. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED THAT INSTITUTIONAL MEMORIES WERE SHORT. THERE HAD BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO KEEP AGREEMENTS AS A COHERENT WHOLE, BUT IN NO CASE HAD THEY BEEN SET UP BY THE US WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE GREEK GOVT. STARNES ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DID NOT CHANGE THE NEED TO MAKE THE AGREEMENTS MORE COHERENT NOW. HE REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE GREEK SIDE TO LEAVE THIS PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THINKING THAT THE US BELIEVED IT HAD FREE REIN; THE US AGREED THAT ALL FACILITIES SHOULD BE COVERED BY AGREEMENTS AND LEASES OF WHICH BOTH SIDES ARE AWARE.

5. CALOGERAS THEN STATED HIS HOPE THAT THE JOINT FACILITIES WOULD NEVER BE NEEDED IN TIME OF WAR. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THAT POSSIBILITY, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DEFINE TWO SETS OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE BASES WOULD BE USED. CATEGORY ONE WOULD BE WHERE GREECE AND THE US WERE ENGAGED IN JOINT HOSTILITIES AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY, IN WHICH CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES REQUIRED IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE BASES. IN THE SECOND CATEGORY, SECRET

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HOWEVER, IF TO ITS GREAT REGRET GREECE WERE TO BE ENGAGED IN HOSTILITIES WITH ANOTHER NATION WHERE THE US WAS NOT INVOLVED, THEN GREECE WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME FULL OR PARTIAL CONTROL AS NECESSARY OF THOSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON GREEK SOIL. THIS OF COURSE WOULD BE BASED ON GREECE'S NATIONAL INTEREST. STEARNS RESPONDED THAT COMMENTS ON THE UTILIZATION OF FACILITIES IN TIME OF WAR WAS A LEGAL POINT ON WHICH HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT AND THAT A MORE CONSIDERED VIEW WOULD COME FROM WASHINGTON. THERE WERE PRECEDENTS, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS HE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO RESPOND FURTHER ON THIS MATTER. HE DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT IN PRACTICE SOME OF OUR FACILITIES IN GREECE HAD BEEN NEUTRALIZED SINCE THE PERIOD OF TENSION IN JULY.

6. CALOGERAS THEN REQUESTED A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT ON VARIBOBI, WHICH HE STATED WAS SADLY LACKING FROM THE GREEK FILES. STEARNS SAID THAT HE WOULD SEE IF WE HAD SUCH A TEXT, ADDING THAT PERHAPS THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED LONG BEFORE AND HAD BEEN ORAL. HE NOTED THAT PERHAPS THE ARRANGEMENT WAS A LEASE RATHER THAN AN AGREEMENT, BUT THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THE SUBJECT. CALOGERAS STATED THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THERE WAS A STIPULATION THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAD TO BE REVIEWED EVERY FIVE YEARS, WITH THE NEXT REVIEW DUE IN 1977. STEARNS AGREED TO LOOK FOR SUCH A TEXT BUT REITERATED HIS INITIAL REACTION THAT THERE WAS A LEASE RATHER THAN AN AGREEMENT.

7. IN CLOSING, CALOGERAS STATED THAT DURING THE NEXT PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS HE HOPED THE GREEK SIDE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUBMIT A FEW PROPOSED TEXTS OF NEW AGREEMENTS. STEARNS ASKED WHETHER GREEK SIDE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ISSUE A WRITTEN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THESE TALKS, STATING THAT THE US SIDE DID NOT THINK IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BUT THAT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BOTH SIDES COULD REPLY ORALLY THAT THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE TALKS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED SATISFACTORILY AND A SECOND PHASE WOULD BEGIN IN NEAR FUTURE. CALOGERAS UNDERTOOK TO

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CHECK THIS MATTER WITH THE MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
STEARNS THEN POINTED OUT THAT THE US DELEGATION HAD BEEN
ASKED TO WORK OUT WITH THE GREEK SIDE GUIDELINES FOR WHAT
WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL AND OTHER
NATO MEMBERS. HE FELT THAT BECAUSE THE TALKS WERE
PRELIMINARY IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE
DETAILED INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. STEARNS ADDED THAT THE
US DELEGATION HAD WORKED OUT A SHORT COMMUNIQUE THAT COULD
BE PROVIDED TO NATO AND THAT THIS COMMUNIQUE COULD BE
USED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO BOTH THE US AND GREEK AMBASSADORS
IN BRUSSELS. CALOGERAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE A
REACTION THE FOLLOWING DAY ON THE QUESTION OF A COMMUNIQUE
AND ON THE STATEMENT TO NATO FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTER.

8. REFERRING TO THE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES,
CALO34- -8\$ 5#-5 #3 297)\$)8(3 59 :)-48*6 5#-5 5#3
&433(8\$3 -2 048;8)3&3 -,\$ 8..7,8583 8, ;346 &3,34-)
534. . HE STATED THAT THE SUBJECT INCLUDED MANY MATTERS,
NOT ONLY LEGAL JURISDICTION BUT EVEN BROADER SUBJECTS
CONCERNING COMMISSARIES, POST EXCHANGES, CLUBS AND EVEN
US INSTALLATIONS "IN THE HEART OF ATHENS." STEARNS
REPLIED THAT AE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUCH
FACILITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF SUBSEQUENT, DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

9. AMB CALOGERAS THANKED THE US DELEGATION FOR
THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THE WHOLE FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS AND
COMMON DEFENSE GOALS WAS BEING CONSIDERED AND THAT HE
WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RESULTS LEAD TO A COHERENT
AGREEMENT ON THE WHOLE OF THE PROBLEM. SPEAKING IN
GREEK, STEARNS EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE SINCERITY AND
HOSPITALITY OF THE GREEK DELEGATION, STATING THAT HE WAS
CONVINCED THAT THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE TWO SIDES WERE
MUTUAL AND THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE US AND GREEK
SIDES WOULD FIND A WAY TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP.
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